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LETTER DATED 25 MARCH 1994 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement of 24 March 1994 by the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia concerning the decision of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to send Turkish troops to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Statement by the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia concerning the decision of the Secretary-General to send Turkish troops to Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has learned with concern that the Secretary-General of the United Nations has decided to accept the offer of Turkey to send its troops to former Bosnia and Herzegovina. Historical facts, as well as the attitude of Turkey towards the crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina, provide sufficient reasons not to deploy Turkish troops in the territory of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, particularly in former Bosnia and Herzegovina, on whatever grounds. Instead of doing everything as a Balkan country to help calm down the conflict and end the hostilities by taking an impartial approach to the civil war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, by its bias and one-sidedness, Turkey has negatively influenced the developments in the territory of that former Yugoslav republic.

The decision of the Secretary-General to send Turkish troops to Bosnia and Herzegovina is not only against the interest of easing the situation in this region but can also have a direct bearing on the escalation of the conflict, contrary to all the efforts made towards achieving a lasting peace and ending the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Security Council and the Secretary-General are, under the Charter of the United Nations, directly responsible for peace and international security. Ending the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina is now of exceptional importance, not only for peace in the Balkans, but also for the stability in Europe. Therefore, the Security Council and the Secretary-General must do everything to bring an early end of hostilities in the civil war and achieve a lasting peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina. By the decision to send Turkish troops to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Secretary-General has made no contribution to peace, but has rather made the situation more complex and created the grounds for further escalation of the conflict.

The Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs wishes to emphasize that, by accepting the offer of Turkey, the Secretary-General has acted against the principle agreed upon at the establishment of the mandate of the United Nations Protection Force that no troops of neighbouring countries of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and those of States whose presence in its territory is not acceptable for historical reasons, shall be deployed in the territory of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.